

Ausma Malik

Deputy Mayor & City Councillor for Ward 10, Spadina-Fort York

February 28, 2024

To: Executive Committee

Re: EX12.6 – Residential Property Tax Rate on Toronto Island

Members of Executive Committee:

In our city, a fair system for property taxes is a shared priority. Through a comprehensive view of how property taxes relate to the larger structure of property valuations we can set a proper framework. The submitted motion is not the path for this kind of evaluation.

First, there are critical inaccuracies in this motion. It states in error that Island residences are on City land, where in fact the land is provincially owned, and leased to a Trust under provincial legislation, which then leases the property to residents. And, at this time, the additional claim that costs for municipal services are three times as much on the Island or have any relation to the residential community are unsubstantiated.

Second, Toronto Island is a destination park that receives more than 1.5 million visits annually. It is the site of businesses, a school that serves non-Island residents, recreation facilities for boating, City facilities like the water filtration plant, and more. City services support a wide range of users on the Island, for the benefit of many in Toronto and beyond. A Toronto Island Master Plan is currently being finalized that is looking at ways to guide change and improvement for all users of the Island on a year-round basis.

This is a narrowly focused motion that does not look at what is needed to consider property tax fairness on a broad basis for the whole City.

This past fall, the Province announced its own review of the property assessment system, with a focus on accuracy and equity. This in-depth review is necessary to inform a further examination of property tax fairness in Toronto.

I support advancing the work of achieving property tax fairness through a comprehensive view that includes this necessary work by the Province.

Sincerely,



Ausma Malik

Deputy Mayor and City Councillor, Ward 10, Spadina-Fort York

Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Second floor, suite C53
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

416-392-4044
Councillor_Malik@toronto.ca
ausmamalik.ca